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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Field and Drought
Assistant Plant
Investigations

February 8, 1921.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

The information contained in this news letter is drawn mainly from newspapers and trade journals, the published source of the information being given in every case. The object of the letter is to furnish information to officials and co-operators of the Department of Agriculture in regard to the condition of the market for long staple cotton. The Department assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of these quoted statements, and under no circumstances should they be republished as having been issued by the Department of Agriculture.

LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS

The New Bedford Standard of February 6 states as follows:

"The general impression of the extra staple cotton market here during the past week has been that of a very flat demand. The mills as a whole have been very bearish in their price ideas, and the weakening of the future market, together with the market recession in the asking prices in the South on extra staples, have both been unsettling features which had much to do with the refusal of many mill treasurers to buy any more cotton just now, no matter what prices were offered. The edge is off the market for goods, moreover, and mill agents feel no special incentive to add to their stocks of raw material, especially since each succeeding day brings lower quotations.

"The tire yarn situation is still unsettled, and the tentative agreement rumored about the market has not, so far as current reports go, been fully acceded to. Consequently, the very consid-

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd.

erable quantities of staple cotton held against uncompleted tire yarn orders still constitute a decided weight on the extra staple market, and the possibility that much of this cotton may be liquidated in the near future is very unsettling to price ideas, especially in view of the slowing up of general demand for other cotton goods.

"On the other hand, it cannot be said that all is quite as blue as would appear on the surface. There have been some quarters in the local market where a very fair volume of staple cotton was sold during the past week, and other quarters, some of them here and some in other parts of New England, where there is still some live interest in current cotton prices and every indication of the possibility of further sales if the price ideas of buyer and seller can find a common ground. There has been some new business taken, both on cloth and on fine yarns, but very little has been heard about it generally in the market and many are not aware of how much really has been placed.

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"There was some interest reported in certain quarters for Sea Islands, and bids in the neighborhood of 30 to 35 cents for fancy were followed by reports of small lot sales of average extra choice around 45 cents.

"Egyptians were practically stagnant. The liquidation of considerable quantities of this cotton held against tire yarn contracts is expected soon, and this idea has made mill men afraid to load up on Egyptians no matter what the price. Both brokers and mill men are afraid to deal very extensively in Egyptians for shipment because of the very unsatisfactory credit situation in Alexandria, and prices are therefore nominal around 22 to 24 cents for medium grade uppers and 32 to 35 cents for medium to high grade Sakel, though it is believed that firm bids a cent or two under these figures may be able to buy some of the Egyptian cotton already held in this country.

"Peruvians are practically dead, but considerable activity in Pima has appeared because of the strenuous efforts of some brokers who are trying hard to liquidate some of this cotton. So far there has been very little dealing. The asking

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd:

price generally is around 35 cents for No. 2 grade, but in certain quarters large lots of this grade can be bought at 30 cents or possibly a little less on a firm bid from a manufacturer.

"Prices on extra staples strict middling white in grade and color and classed as to staple on a high standard of stapling are given herewith, being based on quotations and partly on actual sales:

Inch and an eighth, 20 to 22 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 23-1/2 to 25 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 26 to 27 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 28 to 30 cents."

STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

(from New York Journal of Commerce, February 7)

The stocks on February 4 of this year and of the two preceding years were as follows:

<u>1921</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>
218,000 bales	224,000 bales	380,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND COTTON
ON FEBRUARY 4.

(from New York Journal of Commerce, February 7)

	<u>1921</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>
	(pence)	(pence)	(pence)
Good Sakel	20.00 ¹	83.50	30.79
Middling			
Uplands	8.35	27.72	17.05

¹ This corresponds to a price at Liverpool of 32 cents for Good Sakel and 13 cents for Middling Uplands, demand sterling having closed at \$3.84 at New York on February 4. The "good" grade of Sakel corresponds to Number 3 or choice Pima.

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MIDDLING QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of February 5 contains the following quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, February 4 - 14.00 to 15.00

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

February 15, 1921.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

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LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS

The New Bedford Standard of February 13 states as follows:

"The market for extra staple cotton has flattened out very badly during the past week, and mills that were interested a week or two ago to the extent of giving open orders for certain kinds of cotton at certain prices have this week cancelled all such orders that have not as yet been filled, stating that they are out of the market for the present.

"Prices, after having fallen three cents a pound or more last week, receded still further this week on some of the shorter and medium lengths, and in some cases also on the longer cotton, although the short cotton, that under inch and an eighth, held fairly steady on the previous week's basis.

"It is becoming evident that it is very hard to buy the high grade staples, such as good middling and middling fair. Shippers are becoming more and more cautious about their offerings of strict middling in the staple lengths and many of them want to quote now on middling, asking a premium of fully two cents a pound for strict.

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Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd:

"Mill men are frank in expressing a wish to see cotton prices go higher rather than lower. One treasurer said that he would much rather see them range upward from 30 cents, since he believed that a rise in raw cotton would be followed very shortly by a material increase in the demand for cloth and yarn.

"Speaking of yarn, there were indications this week that the tire yarn market was beginning to awaken after seven months of absolute stagnation. Some few tire yarn orders in rather small quantities were reported to have been placed, and the yarn mills were feeling decidedly more hopeful than a week ago, now that the Goodyear adjustment has been definitely determined.

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"Medium grade Sakel suitable for tire yarn work was quoted all the way from 30 to 36 cents, much of it being cotton already on the spot in this country.

"Inquiry for Sea Islands developed from one or two sources, but quotations on it were too far out of line to admit of any dealing. Some were asking 45 to 53 cents, and much of their cotton did not run better than choice in grade. * *

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"Pima of No. 2 grade and inch and a half to inch and three-quarters staple was offered firm in this market at 33 cents, but it was believed here that a firm bid of 30 cents would secure cotton of this description. No such bid was forthcoming, however, up to the time this is written. It is reported that the Pima this year is running a little shorter in staple than in former years, and some believe this to be a point in its favor, as many mills have found it too long to work well in their machinery. The Pima growers are said to be concentrating considerable quantities of their cotton at San Pedro, on the Pacific seacoast, ready to be shipped by water either to New England ports or to foreign consuming centers. Transportation by water is expected to take only three weeks, as against two months at least necessary for all rail shipment across the country. High density compresses have been installed at San Pedro and the cotton is being prepared for water shipment.

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STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
(from New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle
of February 12)

The stocks on February 11 of this year and of the
two preceding years were as follows:

<u>1921</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>
223,000 bales	221,000 bales	389,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND COTTON
ON FEBRUARY 11.

(from New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle
of February 12)

	<u>1921</u> (pence) ₁	<u>1920</u> (pence)	<u>1919</u> (pence)
Good Sakel	18.50	92.00	30.58
Middling Uplands	8.11	29.67	16.82

¹ This corresponds to a price at Liverpool of 30 cents
for Good Sakel and 13 cents for Middling Uplands, demand
sterling having closed at \$3.89 at New York on February 11.
The "good" grade of Sakel corresponds to Number 3 or choice
Pima.

MIDDLING QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of February 12
contains the following quotations for Middling Upland
cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday,
February 11 - 14.00 to 14.00

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Airali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

February 23, 1921.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER
(Not for publication)

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LONG STAPLE COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS

The New Bedford Standard of February 20 states as follows:

"Decided weakness developed during the past week in the extra staple cotton market and demand from the mills was practically at a standstill so far as future shipment cotton was concerned, except for a comparatively few lots of off colored cotton available at an abnormally low figure.

"The rapid approach of the time when the cotton farmer must begin preparation of the ground for the new crop and must therefore have sufficient money to pay for fertilizer, supplies, seed, etc., is getting considerable attention hereabouts from those who might under certain conditions be buyers of staple cotton. It is very generally believed that there will be a reduction in the acreage. In fact, most mill men here really hope that there will be, as therein lies the only hope for any support of the cotton market.

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd:

"Nevertheless, they realize that by far the bulk of the crop, and this applies to the extra crop as well as to the short cotton, is still in the hands of the growers - much more so than any cotton season on record so far. The grower, the mill men believe, is going to have a hard time to borrow money to make a new crop while he still has part of his old crop unsold, and so, in order to get the required funds for putting the ground in condition and preparing for the planting season he is going to be under the stern necessity of at least partially liquidating his holdings. This may result in a considerable volume of fairly good staple cotton being offered during the next month or six weeks at very low prices, particularly if the consumption of the mills continues at such abnormally small figures as has been the case for the past five months. That is why none of the mill men would buy heavily of extra staple cotton just now, no matter what the price, and that is why the purchases at present are being confined to very small lots for immediate use, and even then only lots that can be had at very cheap prices.

"The stocks being carried by the New England mills are probably lower than they ever were at this season of the year, and from this fact arises a constant demand for spots for immediate use. * *

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 "The attitude of the mills on high grade staples is seen in the fact that several of the local establishments have offered to sell middling and strict middling five-sixteenths and better, which they had previously purchased, but are asking upwards of 31 cents a pound for it, which does not now seem to be available. These offerings, it is understood, are made possible by the fact that some very cheap purchases of Egyptian Sak have been made this past week and substitution of one for the other has been made.

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 "Despite the favorable progress of the Fordney - Tariff bill imposing an import duty on foreign cottons, there have been some rather low-priced offerings of Egyptians during the week, much of it being cotton that is on the spot in this country, too. For example, fairly high grade Sak was sold

Statement relative to long staple cotton market cont'd:

around 30 cents, while offerings of medium grades were as low as 28-1/2 to 29 cents, with very high grades at 34 cents or less. Medium grade uppers could be had around 21 cents and might possibly be bought slightly lower on a firm bid.

"There was no activity at all in Peruvians but Pima of No. 2 or No. 3 grade was easily available around 30 cents, but the interest in them from the mills was confined merely to ascertaining quotations.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON IMPORTS

The Bureau of the Census reports imports from Egypt in equivalent 500-pound bales during the six months ending January 31, 1921, together with the corresponding period (as well as for the month of January) of the preceding year as follows:

January : 6 mos. ending Jan. 31

1921	1920	:	1921	1920
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7,055	66,553	:	33,459	193,098
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MIDDLING QUOTATIONS AT SAVANNAH

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of February 19 contains the following quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, February 18 - 14.00 to 14.00

STOCK AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

(from New York Journal of Commerce of February 21)

The stocks on February 18 of this year and of the two preceding years were as follows:

<u>1921</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1919</u>
228,000 bales	183,000 bales	394,000 bales

LIVERPOOL PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND UPLAND COTTON
ON FEBRUARY 18.

(from New York Journal of Commerce of February 21)

	<u>1921</u> (pence)	<u>1920</u> (pence)	<u>1919</u> (pence)
Good Sakel	17.50 ¹	97.00	30.58
Middling			
Uplands	8.27	30.51	17.68

¹ This corresponds to a price at Liverpool of 28 cents for Good Sakel and 13 cents for Middling Uplands, demand sterling having closed at \$3.87 at New York on February 18. The "good" grade of Sakel corresponds to Number 3 or choice Pima.
